

Chichester Playing Pitch Strategy 2014 – 2036: Executive Summary

Overview

This Playing Pitch Strategy was prepared as part of the Open Space, Sports Facility and Recreation Strategy commissioned from Ethos Environmental Planning Ltd (in conjunction with Leisure and the Environment and RQA) by Chichester District Council in summer 2017. The purpose of the strategy is to support the Chichester Local Plan Review, namely: to provide concise, robust and comprehensive evidence base that enables the Council to develop planning policies which are sufficient to withstand scrutiny at a Local Plan Examination, and inform any revisions needed to the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing SPD, and the CIL Regulation 123 list. The Local Plan was adopted in 2014 for the period to 2029 and the Local Plan Review is extending this time frame to 2036. The Strategy analyses provision across the three sub areas as employed within the Local Plan.

The Vision for the Chichester Playing Pitch Strategy is:

‘To fully understand the quantity and quality of our current stock of playing pitches and changing provision to ensure that we: Protect the facilities that are used and valued by our current population; Provide new facilities in the right locations to cater for increased demand and population; and Enhance facilities to ensure that quality meets twenty-first century expectations and attracts new and existing users.’

Key Messages

- In the Chichester study area, provision for matchplay for football is adequate, but access to suitable training facilities (both floodlit grass and artificial grass) is inadequate.
- There is no full size floodlit 3G surface meeting FA requirements for training and matchplay for football with secure community access in the study area.
- There is effectively no spare capacity at any of the three full size floodlit sand based AGPs in Chichester during peak time weekday evenings or at the weekends.
- Adult male football participation is expected to remain constant, with growth in junior play and continuing focus on the development of female participation
- The majority of football pitches and changing facilities scored as ‘standard’; cricket pitches generally were rated as ‘good’. There are a number of sites which require upgrading and/or provision of ancillary facilities to meet FA league specifications.
- There are a number of rural playing fields where football and/or cricket pitches are no longer marked out and/or play no longer takes place
- There is only one stadium pitch capable of hosting Southern Combination premier league football
- Most youth football clubs in Chichester are split between different sites; many with inappropriate or no facilities.

- The poor quality of the wickets at Oaklands Park is a source of great concern to cricket clubs.
- In cricket, there is steady demand for adult play, with continuing growth in junior play, likely to emanate from existing clubs with junior teams. Further development of T20 cricket may lead to an increase in mid week play.
- There is currently spare capacity for cricket on grounds throughout the study area although not in Chichester itself; however there is growing pressure on popular club grounds in the Manhood Peninsula and North of Plan area
- The four rugby pitches at Oaklands Park used by Chichester RFC are currently overplayed and there is a particular problem in accommodating training.
- For the future, trends in rugby appear to be continuing steady demand, with Chichester RFC looking to maintain their adult sides, and introduce more women's and girls' teams.
- There is a considerable shortfall in terms of rugby pitches meeting current demand and very limited room for absorbing any further growth, particularly junior and mini play.
- Demand from Chichester Hockey Club can only be met at present due to creative scheduling and the club being spread over three sites. There is no spare capacity for growth.
- For the future, hockey demand is expected to grow considerably, building on Olympic success and the development of casual and informal formats of the game

Challenges and Opportunities

- Encouraging football clubs to take up spare slots on existing pitches and using reinstated pitches on existing grass playing fields, to make the best use of current opportunities before providing new pitches.
- Ensuring closer co-ordination between the education sector and buy-in of various establishments in moving proposals forward, as pitches on secondary school sites and the College and University are a vital part of the stock.
- Ensuring that current proposals for new provision in association with new housing are brought to fruition to meet the expected increase in demand, particularly in the West of Chichester Development, at Southern Gateway and Havenstoke Park.
- Ensuring that sufficient, appropriate pitch sport facilities are accessible and available to meet demand from the expected increase in teams to 2036 as follows: 46 football, 23 cricket, 10 rugby and 9 hockey teams.
- Sustainably accommodating new forms of the pitch sports, such as small sided football and T20 cricket, and adapting to changing patterns of demand.
- Improving opportunities for underrepresented groups in the pitch sports, particularly women and girls and people with disabilities
- Actively addressing problems associated with pitches that are located on public open space, such as litter and dog fouling.

- Ensuring that the requirements of younger players (both girls and boys) are fully catered for, by providing a range of age-appropriate pitch sizes, surfaces and training facilities at hub sites, together with appropriate changing facilities.
- Managing the sustainable provision of new AGPs across the district.
- Identifying the location of a hub for sport, physical activity, health and well-being within the Study Area.
- Identifying the location of a hockey dual pitch hub site, enabling junior and senior clubs to be based together, with appropriate ancillary facilities.

Priority Actions

	PROTECT	ENHANCE	PROVIDE <i>(Includes improving access to existing provision)</i>
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All existing football pitch sites, allowing for flexibility of pitch sizes to meet future demand and patterns of play. Securing continuing/greater use to school sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of facilities at Chichester FC Oaklands Park and other identified sites Drainage improvements to Oaklands Park & Loxwood for example Improved changing facilities to support progression through the leagues, suitable for use by young people, women, girls and people with disabilities e.g. Whyke Oval and New Park Road in Chichester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 additional full size 3G AGPs in addition to pitch already identified at Bishop Luffa School as part of West of Chichester development (Possible rugby/football shared facility). Possible sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chichester High School/Southern Gateway Chichester FC Oaklands Park (in partnership with University) Bourne Community College (lower priority) New ground for Bosham Utd Review need for additional grass pitches once one or more AGPs in operation. Suggested need is for 4-5 adult; 7 junior and 4 mini pitches, but there is currently capacity to accommodate nearly all teams on existing marked out pitches or playing fields. Hub site for youth football – various sites identified in report

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Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing level of cricket provision including non turf wickets on school sites to meet future demand, particularly from junior players and alternative forms of the game such as T20. Cricket development plan for Chichester which considers the suitability and feasibility of Priory Park, Oaklands Park, and Graylingwell Park in accommodating various cricket needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement of non-turf wickets on school sites Improvement/reinstatement of cricket ground at Oaklands Park Improvements to pavilion facilities at Priory Park (now being addressed) and other identified sites All indoor sports facilities to ideally have accessible and affordable cricket nets; a shortage of such facilities has been identified within the study area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 additional cricket pitches, depending on where depend emanates from Graylingwell Park: options to develop as cricket hub in Chichester with separate adult & junior pitches on adjoining sites Keep under review need for new pitches in each of Manhood Peninsula and North of Plan Area
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All existing rugby pitches, including those on school sites, where community use needs to be secured. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A capital project/maintenance enhancements to improve pitch quality at Oaklands should be considered a priority prior to the development of facilities elsewhere, as further development of operations at satellite venues may have a negative impact on the sustainability of the club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of a World Rugby 3G AGP in the Chichester area would help to address the deficiencies identified. Possible rugby/football shared AGP facility at Bishop Luffa School Additional 2-3 grass rugby pitches (or equivalent including artificial grass provision)
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vital that existing provision is safeguarded (the 3 sand based AGPs at the University, Chichester College and Chichester High School ('Kingsham' pitch) (to include relocation of this pitch within the Southern Gateway Development area). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Chichester sand based AGP has been identified by the University as requiring an upgrade, but no timetable for this has been established. As a first step, it is recommended that a condition survey be undertaken by Notts Sports (official partner of England Hockey). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional sand based AGP required in Chichester area over life of Strategy. Review & reappraise after 3G AGP in place Sites suitable for two sand based AGPs as a hub site for hockey should be considered, either in association with existing AGPs or new provision Ensure all new and upgraded provision is covered by appropriate and sufficient sinking funds for replacement.